



LESSON PLAN

Send Something Special

Topic: **Adopt a Military Platoon** | Grade Level: **High School**

Subject: **Social Studies/Service Learning** | Time: **50 minutes plus time to collect and send items**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will better understand the sacrifices made by deployed service members and will plan, organize, and implement a school-wide military care package project.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Holiday Cheer* video from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- List of "Suggested Items for Military Care Packages"
- "Care Package Project Planning" Worksheet
- "Care Package Project Assessment" Worksheet
- Flip chart with markers
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links: www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/high

OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access
- Free shipping supplies (*see "Tips" below*)

LESSON

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (3 minutes)

- Teacher introduces lesson by reviewing with the class that we have soldiers deployed to Afghanistan and other countries, often for a year (or even longer). It can get lonely, and it helps service members to know that people back home remember and appreciate them.
- Inform students they are going to watch a video about a teenage girl who found a way to let hundreds of soldiers know they weren't forgotten.

Video (4 minutes)

- Cue and screen *Holiday Cheer* video

Teacher-Led Discussion (5 minutes)

- Nicole's care package drive centered around the Christmas holiday. But troops appreciate receiving care packages any time of the year. The class will plan, organize, and execute a project to "adopt" a military platoon and send a care package with items to be distributed to members of the platoon (15–40 troops).
- Distribute a "Suggested Items for Military Care Packages" and "Care Package Project Planning" Worksheet to each student.

Large-Group Discussion (25 minutes)

- Teacher logs onto any website for sending care packages to service members (such as <http://adoptaplatoon.org>) and class identifies a platoon to adopt.
- Using the "Care Package Project Planning" Worksheet, the class decides how to approach the project, the major tasks to be accomplished, and the initial steps that need to be taken.
 - The planning process will continue throughout the project.
 - When the project is complete, students should fill out the "Care Package Project Assessment" Worksheet.

Tips

- Free military shipping kits and instructions for filling out shipping forms can be found at <http://alysamarieaarhaus.com/tag/usps-customs-form/> (*Allow 7–10 days for shipping kits to arrive*)
- Visit the Post Office website for guidelines. <https://www.usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-guidelines.htm>

From www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org – A Department of Defense website for military youth coping with deployment.

Suggested Items for Military Care Packages

Food

- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Ketchup
- Mayo
- Mustard
- Pickle relish
- Salsa
- Beef jerky
- Dry cereal
- Dried fruit
- Granola bars/cereal bars/protein bars
- Gum
- Hard candy (*no chocolate—it melts*)
- Cookies
- Pudding cups

Toiletries

- Cough drops
- Baby oil
- Cotton balls
- Dental floss
- Deodorant
- Laundry soap
- Hand lotion
- Mouthwash
- Q-tips®
- Shampoo
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen

Fun Stuff for “downtime”

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Batteries (AA, C, D, or 9-volt)
- Football
- Soccer
- Board games
- Playing cards
- Frisbee
- Nerf® balls
- Puzzle books/word search books
- Yo-yos
- Magazines
- Jumprope
- CDs and DVDs

Clothing/Linens

- Twin-sized fitted bedsheets (dark colors)
- Pillowcases
- Hats
- Bandanas
- Socks (white or black)
- Dustcloths
- Clothesline with clothes pins
- Sewing kits
- Tools
- Earbuds
- Flipflops

WORKSHEET

Care Package Project Planning

Our platoon: _____

Our goal: _____

To be successful, all projects require planning. Use this chart to list the initial steps for your project, and use the chart or another tool to continue the planning process throughout the project.

Steps	Who will do this?	Deadline?	Resources needed (e.g., materials or help from adult)?	How do I acquire resources (i.e., ask teacher for help or request that local business donate supplies)?	Volunteer hours spent
Step 1:					
Step 2:					
Step 3:					
Step 4:					

WORKSHEET

Care Package Project Assessment

1. Our project was to:

2. Our goal was to:

3. Our approach to planning and implementing the project was to:

4. Problems we encountered along the way and how we solved them:

5. Results/outcome: *(if you did not meet your goal, explain why)*

6. We spent a total of _____ hours on the project *(calculate the number of hours each group member spent and add them together)*:

7. We learned this about military service:

8. We learned this about ourselves: